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Pankaj Oudhia's Notes on Annona squamosa L. [Kirtikar, Kanhoba Ranchoddas, and Baman Das Basu. "Indian Medicinal Plants." Indian Medicinal Plants. (1918)].

- Posted by [Pankaj Oudhia](#) on April 29, 2014 at 6:47
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Pankaj Oudhia

Introduction

Based on Ethnobotanical surveys since year 1990 in different parts of India Pankaj Oudhia has documented vital information about Medicinal Plants mentioned in the famous publication by Kirtikar and Basu (1918). Through this research document Pankaj Oudhia has tried to present original document with additional notes. For complete paper with pictures, Interactive Tables, Video and Audio clips please visit pankajoudhia.com

For original publication by Kirtikar and Basu (1918) please visit <https://archive.org/details/indianmedicinalp01kirt>

34. Anona squamosa, Linn, h.f.br.l, i. 78,
Roxb. 453.

Vern. :-^Atd, katal (Ass.); Maudar gom (Santalj; Sirpha
(Mai). ; Sita-palam or Sita-pazham (Tarn.) ; Sitapandn (Tel.) .
Sharifah, at or ata, Sitaphal, (H. Deck. Guj. Mar.) ; Ata, lema (B.).

Habitat :— Introduced from the West Indies, and natural-
ized throughout India,

A small tree wholly glabrous. Bark thin, grey. Wood soft, close-grained, greyish-white. Leaves 2-3 by 1-1½ in., membranous, oblong or oblong-lanceolate, obtuse or acuminate, glaucous and pubescent when young; base acute, pellucid-dotted, with a peculiar smell. Flowers solitary or in pair,

N. 0. ANONACEA. 45

1 in. long, pubescent on pedicels as long as the flowers. Exterior Petals 3, narrow-oblong, lanceolate, triquetrous, thick and fleshy, 3 ; interior minute or wanting. Sepals small. Stamens indefinite, crowded round a hemispherical torus. Connective overlapping the anthers. Carpels many, subconnate 5 style oblong, Ovule, 1, erect. Ripe carpels confluent into a many-celled ovoid or globose many-seeded fruit. Fruit fleshy, areolate, 2-4 in. diam, juicy with the pleasant and agreeable odour of the English Heliotrope. Seeds oblong, brownish-black,

This is the genuine Custard Apple of India.

<iframe width="420" height="315" src="//www.youtube.com/embed/koEX9QJU6-4" frameborder="0" allowfullscreen></iframe>

<iframe width="420" height="315" src="//www.youtube.com/embed/KdrWHahwZ3g" frameborder="0" allowfullscreen></iframe>

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A native of the West Indies, naturalized in India, especially the Western Peninsula, and the Dekkan, Bijapur ; in the Madras Presidency in the Krishna district. Wild in the old Forts of the Dekkan, cultivated as far as G-urdaspur in the Punjab.

Parts used:— The fruit (both ripe and unripe) ; leaves, seeds.

roots. **[Pankaj Oudhia's Comment: *All parts are used as medicine. Insects attacking its wild population are used with indigenous Medicinal Rice types in Traditional Entomotherapy.*]**

Uses : -The ripe fruit is medicinally considered a maturant, and when bruised and mixed with salt, is applied to malignant tumours to hasten suppuration, The seeds contain an acrid principle fatal to insects, and the dried unripe fruit, powdered and mixed with gram flour, is used to destroy vermin . An infusion of the leaves is considered efficacious in prolapsus ani of children, The root is considered a drastic purgative ; natives

administer it in acute dysentery. It is also employed internally in depression of spirits and spinal diseases. (T. N. Mukerji.) The seeds are a powerful irritant of the conjunctiva. Lt. Col. Kirtikar, while in charge of the Thana Central Prison, came across a case in which a Life-Convict used the seed powder in destroying the cornea of both eyes to produce blindness for the purpose of avoiding being sent to the Andamans to undergo his sentence there.

[Pankaj Oudhia's Comment: *In Indian Traditional Healing Annona parts are used as important ingredient in thousands of Herbal Formulations. I have collected information about over 350,000 Traditional Herbal Formulations in which the combination of Annona roots and seeds are used as Denary ingredient. The seeds are used alone with other medicinal herbs in over 56,000 Traditional Herbal Formulations as tertiary ingredient. Annona roots are added in over 11000 Traditional Herbal Formulations as tertiary ingredient. These Formulations are still in use and many of the Formulations are popular among the Healers. The young Healers are adding new herbs in it in order to make the formulations stronger. Annona fruits are used for Heart diseases in form of 100,000 Traditional Herbal Formulations. Please see Tables Annona-1 to Annona-350 for exhaustive information on Traditional Medicinal Knowledge about this medicinally important species.*]

The bruised leaves with salt make a cataplasm to induce suppuration (Atkinson).

E-documents on Annona

<http://ecoport.org/ep?SearchType=earticleList&Author=oudhia&...>

Citation

Oudhia, Pankaj (2013). Pankaj Oudhia's Notes on Annona squamosa L. [Kirtikar, Kanhoba Ranchoddas, and Baman Das Basu. "Indian Medicinal Plants." *Indian Medicinal Plants*. (1918)]. www.pankajoudhia.com

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